

## Hong Kong Customs combats sale of counterfeit proprietary Chinese medicines (with photo)

Hong Kong Customs today (July 13) mounted an operation in North Point to combat the sale of counterfeit proprietary Chinese medicines and seized six boxes of a suspected counterfeit proprietary Chinese medicine with an estimated market value of about \$6,000. One person was arrested.

Customs earlier received information alleging a dispensary was suspected of selling counterfeit proprietary Chinese medicines. After an in-depth investigation with the assistance of the trademark owner, Customs officers today took enforcement action and raided a dispensary in North Point. The six boxes of the suspected counterfeit proprietary Chinese medicine were seized.

During the operation, a 42-year-old male director of the dispensary connected with the case was arrested.

Investigation is ongoing.

Customs appeals to consumers to make purchases at shops with a good reputation and to check with the trademark owners or their authorised agents if the authenticity of a product is in doubt.

Customs also reminds traders to be cautious and prudent in merchandising since selling counterfeit goods is a serious crime and offenders are liable to criminal sanctions.

Under the Trade Descriptions Ordinance, any person who sells or possesses for sale any goods with a forged trademark commits an offence. The maximum penalty upon conviction is a fine of \$500,000 and imprisonment for five years.

Members of the public may report any suspected counterfeiting activities to Customs' 24-hour hotline 2545 6182 or its dedicated crime-reporting email account ([crimereport@customs.gov.hk](mailto:crimereport@customs.gov.hk)).

